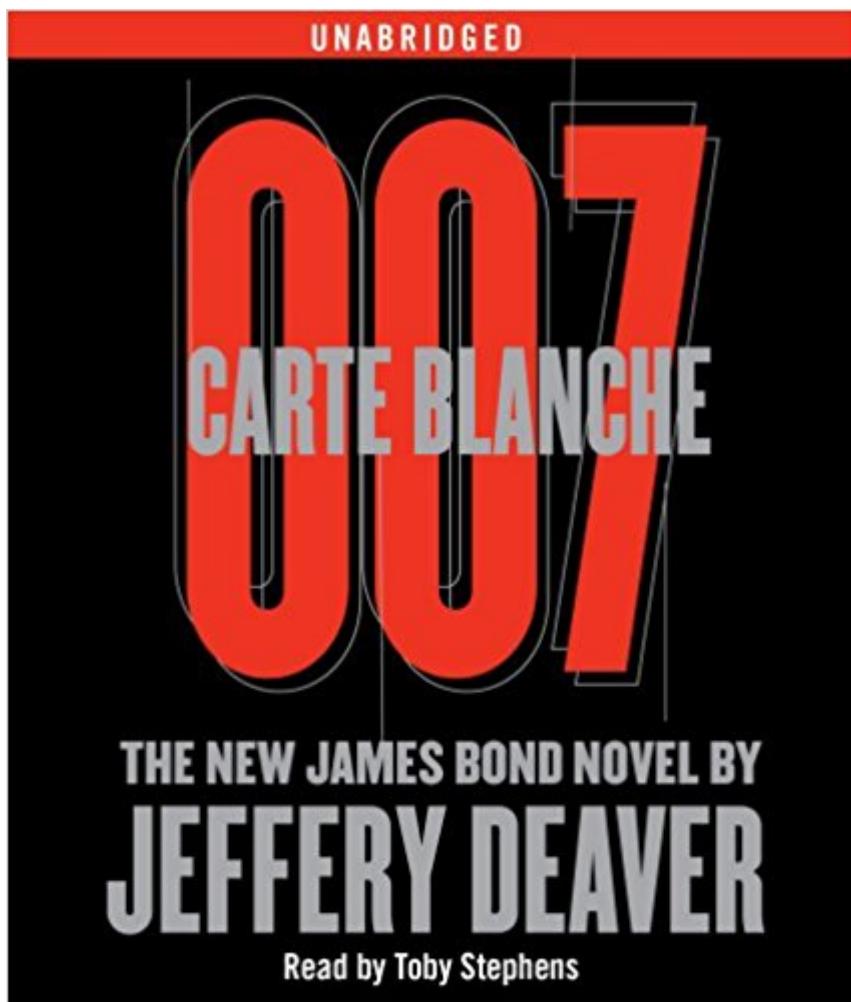


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Carte Blanche: The New James Bond Novel



Synopsis

JAMES BOND as you've never seen him before . . . in the smashing new thriller and #1 international bestseller from JEFFERY DEAVER A Night Action alert calls James Bond away from dinner with a beautiful woman. Headquarters has decrypted an electronic whisper "plans for a devastating attack: Casualties estimated in the thousands, British interests adversely affected. James Bond, in his early thirties and already a veteran of the Afghan War, has been recruited to a new organization. Conceived in the post-9/11 world, it operates independent of MI5, MI6, and the Ministry of Defense, its very existence deniable. Its aim: to protect the Realm, by any means necessary. And Agent 007 has been given carte blanche to do whatever it takes to fulfill his mission. . . . --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jeffery Deaver is a great writer. CARTE BLANCHE is a fairly good adventure story (if you are careful to keep track of the long list of organizations and surplus of numerous characters) The problem ?It's not really James Bond. Of course the cover says it is James Bond, and we are told this is a James Bond story. But if I were to "search and replace" all references to the use of the name James Bond in this novel and substitute another name ----- you would never recognize this was supposed to be a James Bond story. Yes, there is the attempt to capture the "Fleming Flair" by identifying by specific brand wines, clothes, watches, etc... But unlike Fleming who was able to make it flow naturally and interestingly; here it feels forced and stiff. Ian Fleming was once quoted as saying he

realized he was not writing great literature but he was writing stories that interested people. He said the secret to a good story is "it keeps the reader turning the page". Nothing should distract, annoy or hinder the reader from simply flying thru the book effortlessly and enjoyably. So while Fleming's stories sometimes really stretched the realism and Bond got into some sticky situations that a skilled spy would have easily avoided; the stories were still tons of fun. I confess, it took some work to get thru CARTE BLANCHE. It was not a book that grabbed you and made you feel like you could not put it down until you finished. I said at the beginning, it was a fairly good adventure story, and it was but in a kind of stiff & clinical way. It may be that Deaver is a good writer (and he is as evidenced by other books of his) ...

I read all of the Ian Fleming James Bond novels while I was in high school, 35 years ago. At the time they were a bit dated: now of course they're almost antiques. Ian Fleming's estate keeps the character alive, hiring various authors to write new versions of the character, with new plots. Apparently, Jeffrey Deaver is the 5th author to take up the charge, and he's decided on a total reboot of the series. What you get, then, is pretty similar to the new Sherlock series that was on the BBC this year; just as that was Sherlock Holmes reimagined in modern London, this is James Bond, the womanizing spy from the '50s and '60s, reimagined as a 21st century, iPhone-carrying, sort-of-spy. He doesn't work for MI6 anymore, instead being employed by a supersecret agency that works to disrupt terrorist organizations and bad actors "by any means necessary." Things start out with Bond surveilling bad guys at a restaurant in Serbia, trying to figure out how they're related to a series of messages that Britain's codebreakers have partially deciphered. The bad guys try to derail a train carrying toxic gas, but Bond thwarts them, and the principal bad guy vanishes. Bond pursues him back to London, and of course things begin to get complicated. There is a full cast of characters (or at least their names) from previous Bond books, M, Moneypenny, Felix Leiter, etc., and the action moves along at a very good clip. I read this book cover to cover in about 6-7 hours. There is a twist at the end, though it wasn't that surprising (at least compared with the endings I remember from some of Deaver's other books). Still, the story was satisfying and the "solution" to what the terrorists were after was interesting and believable. I have enjoyed the few Jeffrey Deaver novels I've read.

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